



Effort will critique course of action for ground forces

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate recently awarded a \$1,240,700 contract to Alphatech Inc. of Burlington, Mass., to develop knowledge-based Active Templates technology to assist Special Operating Forces planning staff in constructing robust and agile plans.

The two-year contract, "Plan Critiquing and Look-Ahead Constraint Reasoning for Active Templates," is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of Arlington, Va.

"Alphatech will transition reusable ontologies, knowledge bases and technology for knowledge-based plan critiquing developed within DARPA's Active Templates program to build and critique planning templates for Courses Of Action for ground forces operations," said Wayne A. Bosco, program manager in the directorate's Information Technology Division.

"This effort leverages off previously developed large, reusable ontologies and knowledge bases for representing and critiquing courses of action for ground forces operations for the DARPA High Performance Knowledge Base program," Bosco said. "Previous work found that current methodologies and technologies allow rapid construction of an expressive, broad-coverage model of a military planning domain sufficient to support automated plan critiquing."

The program goal is to develop revolutionary software technology to assist in the automation of time-critical planning and execution for limited military operations. Active Templates technology is expected to increase planning speed by six times and quadruple the problem-solving time ration. It will also result in the ability to reduce the size of a required planning staff by more than 50 percent. @